(c) if so, the action taken to get back this land; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Some Railway lands have been encroached upon in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from their land as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, and as per provisions of the Railways Act, 1989. A large number of encroachers have been removed.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Rail underbridge in Satna

†2235. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in the construction of rail underbridge, being built by the Railways in Satna in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the time frame and the cost fixed for its construction and the present status as well;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any complaint against the contractor regarding delay; if so, the details of action taken; and

(d) by when the construction work of said underbridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Change in scheme of construction necessitated by operational requirements and time taken in approval of scheme and revised estimate by State Government.

(b) Work is likely to be completed during current financial year subject to State Government fulfilling its financial commitment. Cost

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of the work is Rs. 434.41 lakhs. (Railway's share Rs. 120.80 lakhs and State Government share 313.61 lakhs).

Physical progress of the work is 30%

(c) No, Sir.

(d) During current financial year subject to State Government fulfilling its financial commitment.

Racket in extracting money from unreserved passengers

2236. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a racket is active at New Jalpaiguri station in forcibly collecting money from passengers boarding unreserved compartments;

(b) whether a section of licenced coolies are also a part of such racket, even at Delhi station; and

(c) if so, Government's plans to curb such menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No case of forcible collection of money from passengers boarding unreserved compartments have come to notice at New Jalpaiguri station of Northeast Frontier Railway. Some instances of cornering of berths/seats have come to notice during the checks conducted at New Delhi railway station during the year 1999-2000.

(c) Regular checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance Departments in association with the Police to prevent cornering of seats by coolies and other anti-social elements. In addition, passengers are advised to follow a queue system for preventing cornering of seats in unreserved coaches.

Passenger facilities at model stations

2237. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum essential passenger facilities at Model Stations;